

What is claimed is:

1. An expression converting method wherein for each sentence in a corpus, key words are selected from the sentence, a combination of key words that are in a co-occurrence relation is identified from among a predetermined number of combinations of key words among the selected key words, and the identified key word combination and an expression into which the sentence from which the key words are selected is converted are previously associated, and

wherein predetermined key words are selected from an input sentence, the selected key words are combined, the key word combinations and the previously identified key word combination of each sentence are compared, one or more than one sentences that coincide or have a high degree of similarity as a result of the comparison are selected, and expressions into which the selected sentences are converted are output.

2. An expression converting method wherein by use of classing information in which key words are previously classed based on predetermined properties and each class is provided with a name, for each sentence in a corpus, key words are selected from the sentence, a combination of classes that are in a co-occurrence relation are identified from among a predetermined number of combinations of classes among classes to which the selected key words belong, and the identified class combination and an expression into which the sentence from which the key words

are selected are converted are previously associated, and wherein predetermined key words are selected from an input sentence, classes to which the selected key words belong are combined, the class combinations and the previously identified class combination of each sentence are compared, one or more than one sentences that coincide or have a high degree of similarity as a result of the comparison are selected, and expressions into which the selected sentences are converted are output.

3. An expression converting method wherein for each sentence in a corpus, key words are selected from the sentence, a combination of key words that are in a co-occurrence relation is identified from among a predetermined number of combinations of key words among the selected key words, and the identified key word combination and an expression into which the sentence from which the key words are selected is converted are previously associated,

wherein by use of classing information in which key words are previously classed based on predetermined properties and each class is provided with a name, the identified key word combination is associated with a class combination to thereby identify a class combination of the sentence, and

wherein predetermined key words are selected from an input sentence, classes to which the selected key words belong are combined, the class combinations and the previously identified class combination of each sentence are compared, one or more than

one sentences that coincide or have a high degree of similarity as a result of the comparison are selected, and expressions into which the selected sentences are converted are output.

4. An expression converting apparatus comprising:

associating means of, for each sentence in a corpus, selecting key words from the sentence, identifying a combination of key words that are in a co-occurrence relation from among a predetermined number of combinations of key words among the selected key words, and previously associating the identified key word combination and an expression into which the sentence from which the key words are selected is converted; and

converting means of selecting predetermined key words from an input sentence, combining the selected key words, comparing the key word combinations and the previously identified key word combination of each sentence, selecting one or more than one sentences that coincide or have a high degree of similarity as a result of the comparison, and outputting expressions into which the selected sentences are converted.

5. An expression converting apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when the degree of similarity is high as the result of the comparison, said converting means outputs the selected expression after removing a part into which a key word is converted is removed from the selected expression, said key word belonging to the key word combination that does not coincide and not being included in the key word combination that coincides.

6. An expression converting apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said expression into which the sentence is converted comprises only key words or words equivalent to the key words.

7. An expression converting apparatus comprising:

associating means of, by use of classing information in which key words are previously classed based on predetermined properties and each class is provided with a name, for each sentence in a corpus, selecting key words from the sentence, identifying a combination of classes that are in a co-occurrence relation from among a predetermined number of combinations of classes among classes to which the selected key words belong, and previously associating the identified class combination and an expression into which the sentence from which the key words are selected is converted; and

converting means of selecting predetermined key words from an input sentence, combining classes to which the selected key words belong, comparing the class combinations and the previously identified class combination of each sentence, selecting one or more than one sentences that coincide or have a high degree of similarity as a result of the comparison, and outputting expressions into which the selected sentences are converted.

8. An expression converting apparatus comprising:

associating means of, for each sentence in a corpus, selecting key words from the sentence, identifying a combination of key words that are in a co-occurrence relation from among a

predetermined number of combinations of key words among the selected key words, and previously associating the identified key word combination and an expression into which the sentence from which the key words are selected is converted, and

by use of classing information in which key words are previously classed based on predetermined properties and each class is provided with a name, associating the identified key word combination with a class combination to thereby identify a class combination of the sentence; and

converting means of selecting predetermined key words from an input sentence, combining classes to which the selected key words belong, comparing the class combinations and the previously identified class combination of each sentence, selecting one or more than one sentences that coincide or have a high degree of similarity as a result of the comparison, and outputting expressions into which the selected sentences are converted.

9. An expression converting apparatus according to claim 7 or 8, wherein when the degree of similarity is high as the result of the comparison, said converting means outputs the selected expression after removing a part into which a class is converted is removed from the selected expression, said class belonging to the class combination that does not coincide and not being included in the class combination that coincides.

10. An expression converting apparatus according to claim 7 or 8, wherein said expression into which the sentence is

converted comprises only class.

11. A program for causing a computer to function as all or part of the following means of the expression converting apparatus according to claim 4:

the associating means of, for each sentence in a corpus, selecting key words from the sentence, identifying a combination of key words that are in a co-occurrence relation from among a predetermined number of combinations of key words among the selected key words, and previously associating the identified key word combination and an expression into which the sentence from which the key words are selected is converted; and

the converting means of selecting predetermined key words from an input sentence, combining the selected key words, comparing the key word combinations and the previously identified key word combination of each sentence, selecting one or more than one sentences that coincide or have a high degree of similarity as a result of the comparison, and outputting expressions into which the selected sentences are converted.

12. A program for causing a computer to function as all or part of the following means of the expression converting apparatus according to claim 7:

the associating means of, by use of the classing information in which key words are previously classed based on predetermined properties and each class is provided with a name, for each sentence in a corpus, selecting key words from the

sentence, identifying a combination of classes that are in a co-occurrence relation from among a predetermined number of combinations of classes among classes to which the selected key words belong, and previously associating the identified class combination and an expression into which the sentence from which the key words are selected is converted; and

the converting means of selecting predetermined key words from an input sentence, combining classes to which the selected key words belong, comparing the class combinations and the previously identified class combination of each sentence, selecting one or more than one sentences that coincide or have a high degree of similarity as a result of the comparison, and outputting expressions into which the selected sentences are converted.

13. A program for causing a computer to function as all or part of the following means of the expression converting apparatus according to claim 8:

the associating means of, for each sentence in a corpus, selecting key words from the sentence, identifying a combination of key words that are in a co-occurrence relation from among a predetermined number of combinations of key words among the selected key words, and previously associating the identified key word combination and an expression into which the sentence from which the key words are selected is converted, and

by use of the classing information in which key words are

previously classed based on predetermined properties and each class is provided with a name, associating the identified key word combination with a class combination to thereby identify a class combination of the sentence; and

the converting means of selecting predetermined key words from an input sentence, combining classes to which the selected key words belong, comparing the class combinations and the previously identified class combination of each sentence, selecting one or more than one sentences that coincide or have a high degree of similarity as a result of the comparison, and outputting expressions into which the selected sentences are converted.